



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

4 April 1974

Dear Jenise,

Many thanks for your letter. I was very interested to know of your interest in languages. The world in which we live grows smaller every day and the ability to communicate grows in importance.

I speak French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and German fluently, and Russian and Dutch less fluently (and, of course, English quite well).

I learned the first three languages as a child living in Europe with my parents from age 5 to age 16. Portuguese I learned very quickly during the war on orders from the Army. I then served the last year of the war in Italy with a Brazilian Infantry Division. I have heard of the Monterey Institute of Foreign Study and everything I have heard of it has been good. At Monterey, also, is the Defense Language Institute (for the Armed Forces only), a really superb school. Middlebury also has a very good reputation.

I have worked as an interpreter at various times in my career, translating for Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, and Nixon, for General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer, for the Pope, and many other interesting figures.

Yours is a fascinating interest and I wish you much success in it. The knowledge of languages is not only useful and interesting, but it is also very rewarding.

With every good wish for your success.

Faithfully,

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Miss Jenise Cook

Walter Hall
Deputy Director.